

“That’s all  
nonviolence is—  
organized love.”

Joan Baez  
(1941—)  
Daybreak

Monday  
September  
1984

24

By 9 A.M. I was standing in the Tinker Creek  
and doing my laundry. What a  
wonderful experience. It is now  
hanging on a clothes line out back.  
In the time between the hanging of  
the clothes and my departure  
for Carbondale (around 2 P.M.), I  
finished my 1984 Autumnal Equinox  
letter to DWP and organized at my  
desk.

11:50 AM — Forest City High School telephoned and asked if  
I could substitute on Tuesday and Wednesday,  
October 2-3, for the school librarian. Sam skipping  
a beat I said yes. I am to arrive there at  
8:30 A.M. Excellent. My substitute teaching  
career appears to be launched.

1 P.M. — Jean Colville telephoned and said that she  
had been talking with Charlotte Moss and that  
she & Joe had seen it in the paper (Times?) that  
I was teaching French at Lakeland! They must  
have seen the school board meeting minutes in  
which it was announced that I had applied for  
a teaching position there in French.

Received an application for a teaching position at Trunkhannock area  
School District, 200 Franklin Avenue, Trunkhannock, PA  
18657 — 717-836-3111; sent (form letter) from Dr. Roger A.  
Place and so Dr. SILAS R. POWELL replied. Completed  
application will be mailed 09-25-1984. Curiously, I  
haven't any idea how we would drive to Trunkhannock —  
nevertheless I shall allow them to interview me.

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THE SCRANTON TIMES, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1984, p. 9

## Lakeland Director's Actions Questioned

By JOE VINANSKY  
Upvalley Bureau

Mayfield — Allegations that Anne  
Gardus may have overstepped her  
authority as a school director by con-  
ducting a spot check of cafeteria work-  
ers in the Lakeland Elementary School  
without first consulting with Superin-  
tendent Thomas O'Donnell surfaced at  
Wednesday night's Lakeland School  
Board meeting.

President Eugene Jubinsky ques-  
tioned Mrs. Gardus about her alleged  
involvement in "looking at the hands of  
a cafeteria worker" employed in the  
Scott Twp. elementary building. Ac-  
cording to Jubinsky, Mrs. Gardus,  
following a complaint from an un-  
named district employee, visited the  
elementary building during school  
hours and proceeded to meet with  
several cafeteria workers. Jubinsky  
said Mrs. Gardus spoke with one em-  
ployee and allegedly inspected that  
person's hands — an implication that  
the cafeteria worker may be posing a  
health risk by working at the school.

"I want to know... as an independ-  
ent director, does that person have the  
right to walk into a school and do  
this?" asked Jubinsky.

Solicitor John Krisa responded by  
saying that, "An individual school di-  
rector has no right or authority to  
interfere in the daily operations of a  
school district."

But Mrs. Gardus argued that she did  
not "order any cafeteria worker to  
show me her hands." Instead, Mrs.  
Gardus said she walked into the cafet-  
eria and several employees came over  
to her "to say hello." She emphasized  
that the cafeteria worker in question  
voluntarily "showed her hands to me."

Norma Jones concurred and sug-  
gested that Krisa "should interpret the  
law for everyone."

Another board member, Michael  
Costa, suggested that any questions  
about daily school operations be di-  
rected to Superintendent O'Donnell as  
mandated by district policy.

At this, Mrs. Gardus remarked, "We  
can't look at a teacher or superintend-  
ent without permission?"

Mrs. Gardus said she visited the  
cafeteria after receiving a complaint  
from an unnamed district employee.  
"All I did was ask the cafeteria man-  
ager if there was a physical on every  
person in the cafeteria," said Mrs.  
Gardus.

But Jubinsky said Mrs. Gardus erred  
in "not following the proper channels."  
He charged Mrs. Gardus with "not  
having the authority to take matters  
like this on your own."

Following a heated exchange be-  
tween Mrs. Gardus and Jubinsky, Su-  
perintendent O'Donnell addressed the  
board. O'Donnell stated that the cafet-  
eria worker in question did have an  
approved physical on file. Following  
the board meeting, O'Donnell told The  
Times that "any director is welcome to  
contact me to check the records of  
personnel or any items of that nature."

He indicated that other school board  
members have frequently contacted  
district administrators seeking such  
information.

According to Mrs. Gardus, Jubinsky  
and several other members on the  
board frequently visit the Lakeland  
High School and conduct business with-  
out consulting O'Donnell.

Jubinsky denied these claims and  
said, "Everytime I'm at the school,  
I'm on district business."

The appointment of a part-time caf-  
eteria worker also generated consider-  
able debate when a nomination by Mrs.  
Jones to hire Debbie Evans to the post  
was rejected by a 6-2 board vote.

The reason mentioned Mrs. Evans  
is that Mrs. Wansacz (cafeteria man-  
ager) said she's the best cafeteria  
worker they have," said Mrs. Jones.  
She cited Mrs. Evans' experience as a  
substitute cafeteria employee as justifi-  
cation for the nomination.

However, the board rejected the  
nomination and instead appointed Dee  
Gerald as a part-time, four-hour-per-  
day, 180-day cafeteria worker at a wage  
of \$4.75 per hour.

Angered by the turn of events, Mrs.  
Jones cited the 6-2 vote as evidence of

a faction on the board. Jubinsky sug-  
gested that the board faction did not  
upset Mrs. Jones when she was "on the  
majority side."

In a related matter, the board ap-  
pointed Theresa Liuzzo as a part-time  
cafeteria worker to be paid the same  
salary as Ms. Gerald.

The board also appointed Donna  
Blank as a 180-day custodian to be paid  
at the rate of \$5.65 per hour and  
appointed Eleanor Forbes as a part-  
time cafeteria worker at a salary of  
\$4.75 per hour.

Leaves of absence also figured in  
discussion as the board denied Charles  
Itchkawitz's request for a leave. Itch-  
kawitz, athletic director and secondary  
guidance counselor at Lakeland, re-  
portedly has taken a position with a  
school district in New York.

The board agreed to deny his request  
for a leave and to "terminate his  
employment for reasons of non-attend-  
ance and reporting off."

The board also agreed to post the  
athletic director vacancy created by  
Itchkawitz's absence.

In other business Wednesday, the  
board:

- Approved the addition of the fol-  
lowing persons to the district's daily sub-  
stitute teachers' list for the 1984-85  
school year: Michael Kraky, Olyphant,  
industrial arts; Judy Gardus, Carbondale,  
elementary education; Janet  
Blanchek, Dunmore, art; Robert Pow-  
ell, Carbondale, French; Walter Buck-  
man, Scranton, social studies; and  
Patricia Walker, Union Dale, elemen-  
tary education.

- Accepted the resignation of cafet-  
eria worker Ruby Blevins as tendered  
in her letter of Aug. 24.

- Accepted the resignation of custo-  
dian Andrew Pelachyk effective Dec.  
31, 1984, as outlined in his letter of  
Sept. 5.

- Accepted the resignation of custo-  
dian Jeff Arnold as tendered in his  
letter of Aug. 27.

- Approved the elementary faculty  
handbook submitted by Carl Klach,  
elementary principal, and the Lake-  
land Junior-Senior High School student  
handbook submitted by Robert Ghigli-  
arelli, secondary principal.

- Adopted the district's student dis-  
cipline and conduct code which went  
into effect on Sept. 5.

- Authorized Klach to attend a Penn-  
sylvania Association of Elementary  
and Secondary Principals Conference  
in King of Prussia from Oct. 10 through  
13.

- Authorized Patricia Turissini,  
Lakeland's Future Homemakers of  
America adviser, and student FHA  
officers Ann Spataro and Daryl Yur-  
gosky to attend FHA conference, semi-  
nars, and meetings as listed in their  
request dated Sept. 4.

- Authorized the payment of the  
semi-annual lease rental payment on  
the Lakeland Junior-Senior High  
School in the amount of \$326,400 due  
Oct. 15 which includes \$2,400 in author-  
ity expenses.

- Authorized the payment of \$1,571.09  
to R.G. Engineering Co. for a data  
printer for a computer at the high  
school. Funds for this purchase will  
come from the district's 1980 bond  
issue.

- Authorized the payment of \$1,000 to  
Northeastern Bank for the annual fee  
as corporate trustee for the 1980 bond  
issue.

- Authorized the payment of the  
semi-annual lease rental payment on  
the Mayfield Elementary Building of  
\$72,210 due Nov. 1.

- Authorized the payment of \$236.80  
for ceiling tiles to Pittston Lumber and  
Manufacturing Co.

SRP added to Lakeland's  
daily substitute list.